

Message Text

SECRET

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73 L

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20

RSC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 051527Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8193

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T NICOSIA 223

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: STATE OF CYPRIOT/TURKISH COMMUNICATIONS

REF: STATE 22066

1. IN LINE WITH SUGGESTION PARA 3 REFTTEL, I MENTIONED TO CHRISTOPHIDES IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION IN ANY SITUATION WHEREIN TWO COUNTRIES ARE AS CLOSELY INTERLOCKED AS CYPRUS AND TURKEY. I MENTIONED ALSO THAT LAST SPRING, WITH DIR GEN VENIAMIN'S BLESSING, I HAD INFORMALLY POSED QUESTION IN ANKARA (NOTE: TO BARUTCU) AS TO WHETHER BETTER CHANNEL OF DIRECT COMMUNICATION SHOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED. AT THAT TIME, TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RISEN TO PROPOSEAL.

2. CHRISTOPHIDES ADMITTED NEED FOR BETTER DIRECT COMMUNICATION, ASKED IF WE WOULD INFORMALLY SOUND OUT GOVT OF TURKEY IN GOCYPRUS BEHALF AS TO POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN ANKARA. CHRISTOPHIDES RECOGNIZED THAT PRESENT CYPRIOT STAFF IN ANKARA TOTALLY INADEQUATE, SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING CHARGE WITH A FIRST-RATE OFFICER IF ASSURANCE COULD BE HAD FROM GOT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT HE WOULD

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HAVE ACCESS FOR REGULAR COMMUNICATION. CHRISTOPHIDES

NOTED THAT DIALOGUE COULD ALSO BE IMPROVED WITH TURKISH CHARGE HERE, BUT HE SAID THAT INHAN IS SO ABSORBED IN RELATIONS WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY THAT HE HAS NOT SHOWN INTEREST IN SERIOUS REGULAR CONTACT WITH MINISTRY. GOVT OF CYPRUS WOULD SHIFT PERSONNEL IN ANKARA ONLY IF ASSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE REGULAR CONTACT THAN IS PRESENTLY PRACTICED BY TURKISH EMBASSY HERE.

3. COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON AND ANKARA AGREE, THERE MIGHT BE SOME REAL MERIT IN RAISING POSSIBILITY ON VERY INFORMAL LEVEL WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE HAVE REGULARLY HAD THE IMPRESSION HERE THAT PART OF THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE ATHENS/ANKARA/NICOSIA RELATIONSHIP STEMS FROM SIMPLE FAILURE TO SIT DOWN FACE-TO-FACE AND TALK MATTERS OUT.
GRANT

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